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CIA-RDP90G01353R001400090033-6

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Washington, D.C. 20505

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OCA ☐ sgb (5 Jan 87)

OCA 88-0019

06 JAN 1988

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

At your request, I am forwarding herewith the original transcript of the 28 October 1969 executive session between your committee and former Director Richard Helms. This document is classified at the Top Secret level and must be stored at the storage facility of the Select Committee on Intelligence.

The transcript of the 26 January 1965 executive session between your Committee and former Director John McCone was reviewed by the appropriate officials to determine its current level of classification. The document contains information that must be controlled at the Special Compartmented Information (SCI) level. After a discussion with Ms. Beth Chapman of your staff, it was determined that the SCI information should be excised and a copy of the document downgraded to the Top Secret level. As soon as this is accomplished, the document will be available to you in the Select Committee on Intelligence storage facility.

These documents will be available to staff members of the Committee on Foreign Relations who hold the appropriate clearances. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

/s/ David D. Gries

David D. Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASSIFIED WHEN
SEPARATED FROM ENCLOSURE



TOP SECRET

L-231-15

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 87-5898

04 DEC 1987

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your requests that we review transcripts from 26 January 1965 and 28 October 1969 to determine whether we can downgrade the classification.

In response to your 3 June 1987 request concerning the transcript of the 26 January 1965 executive session between your Committee and former Director John McCone, our declassification review is now complete. The document does contain information that must be controlled at the Special Compartmented Information (SCI) level. If the Committee would agree to excise this material, the document may be downgraded to the Top Secret level.

In reference to your 9 October 1987 request that we review the transcript of the 28 October 1969 executive session between your Committee and former Director Helms, the document has been recalled from our Records Center and forwarded to the appropriate reviewing officials. Unfortunately this is a lengthy process, but I shall report to you as soon as a decision has been reached on the proper level of classification.

I appreciate your patience in this delicate review process.

Sincerely,

Wc7 David D. Gries

David D. Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs

Distribution:

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ROUTING SLIP

TO:

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| 9 | Chm/NIC | | | | |
| 10 | GC | | | | |
| 11 | IG | | | | |
| 12 | Compt | | | | |
| 13 | D/OCA | X (Advance Copy 21 Oct 87) | | | |
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| | | SUSPENSE _____ Date | | | |

Remarks

D/OCA has advised DCI that he will
respond to the attached inquiry.

STAT _____

E. _____ /
22 Oct 87

Date

3637 (10-81)

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21 OCT 1987

From: Dave Gries

____ We plan to prepare an
answer for your signature.

✓ We plan to prepare an answer for my signature.

 No answer expected or required

 Dave, I prefer to _____

I am trying to find out why the

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 9, 1987

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Webster:

I am writing to request the return of the transcript of an executive session of the Committee on Foreign Relations held on October 28, 1969. At this session, former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms testified on U.S. security agreements and commitments in Laos. The transcript has been retained by CIA since 1969.


The Committee's records indicate that the transcript is classified Top Secret. Should the classification level be higher, however, as was recently the case with a transcript dated January 26, 1965, I request that the transcript be downgraded to a minimum classification of Top Secret before it is returned to the Committee. Once received by the Committee, the transcript will be kept in an appropriately secure facility, and it will not be published or released in any form without prior review by the Agency.

I would also take this opportunity to note that I have not yet received a reply to my letter of June 3, 1987 regarding the January 26, 1965 transcript.

Your early attention to both requests will be greatly appreciated.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely,


Claiborne Pell
Chairman



L-231-11